

## GENERAL STAFF FOR THE MILITIA

### REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR LAST FISCAL YEAR

#### Present System Fails to Supply Sufficient Good Officers.

The report of the militia council for the fiscal year ending March 31st last sets forth that it has been decided to proceed with the organization of a Canadian general staff, which will become in time the Canadian section of the Imperial general staff. With this exception there have been no important changes in military policy during the period under review.

Regarding the establishment in Canada of a section of the Imperial general staff, the scheme explained by the British war office in December, 1908, in a memorandum, has been accepted in its general principles, but the control of the local section by the responsible minister has been fully safeguarded.

The idea of establishing a Canadian staff college cannot yet be entered upon. For a long time to come officers must continue to be sent, subject to the concurrence of the war office, to the English staff colleges, and should this procedure entail any addition to the accommodation at Camberley, or to the number of instructors, the Dominion government would not doubt be willing to contribute its share of the expense, calculated upon an equitable basis.

As to the permanent force, the report notes that its strength is well up to the limited establishment allowed, the several units being in a generally efficient condition. Fifteen officers were appointed to the several branches during the year.

The ordinary expenditure on account of annual training for the year ended March 31st amounted to \$104,046 and the special expenditure in connection with the Tercentenary celebration at Quebec in July, 1908, amounted to \$350,000, bringing the total expenditure under this vote to \$1,204,785. This is the largest amount expended in any year for annual training, the number of officers and men of the active militia who have received not less than 12 days' training showing a corresponding increase over any previous year.

The Tercentenary celebration not only accounts for the direct increase of \$350,000, but in addition the cavalry units which usually perform their training in the Eastern Townships were sent to Quebec and carried out their 12 days' training at Sarnia park in order that they might take part in the celebration. This caused an additional expense of \$30,000 for this camp which is not included in the direct charges under the Tercentenary account.

Transport charges include the sum of \$30,778 which was incurred in the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1909, but which could not be paid for out of the appropriations for that year, but this is offset by a deficit of about the same amount for railway claims outstanding on March 31st, 1909. Difficulties have been experienced for years past in getting transportation companies to submit their claims before the close of the fiscal year, resulting in these claims being carried over for payment in the ensuing year. Steps have, however, been taken which, it is hoped, put an end to this undesirable practice.

Major-General Sir Percy Lake, in his report to the council makes the following remarks: "So far, our system has failed to provide us with a sufficient number of good officers, and it is apparently increasing difficult to get right out to attend the schools of instruction. The remedy can only lie in (1) making the position of the officer more attractive by relieving him of expenses—his pay and allowances never cover his expenses, those at his first camp do not even pay customs duty on his uniform—and of all his other clerical labor and demands upon his time outside of annual drill; (2) in making the courses at the schools of instruction as attractive as possible, by studying the officer's convenience and imparting only such instruction as is essential and that in as practical a shape as possible; (3) in bringing instruction to the individuals concerned in those cases where a sufficient number of officers to be instructed can be assembled at any one time and place."

#### "DEATH TO AMERICANS"

##### ZELAYA'S ORDERS

#### Instructs Officers to Shoot Americans Found in Ranks of Revolutionists.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 9.—A Panama cable says: "Death to Americans" is the order issued to the army by President Zelaya. Positive information was received here to-day that more than a month ago Zelaya issued instructions to his military commanders to shoot every American caught fighting in the ranks of the revolutionists. Some of Zelaya's military officers protested against this order and warned him that trouble with the United States would result.

The gunboat Vicksburg, which has been stationed at Corinto ever since the Nicaraguan trouble assumed an acute stage, has been ordered and there are now four American warships in the Corinto harbor.

Resignation Not Demanded. Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.—The statement telegraphed from Nicaragua that the United States had demanded the resignation of President Zelaya is declared at the state department to be without foundation.

#### MUST GO TO JAIL.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 15.—Montague Roberts, the well-known automobile builder, was found guilty yesterday of a violation of the automobile law, and was sentenced to jail for thirty days and fined \$150. The court refused to set the verdict aside. The trial grew out of an accident in Southington on September 17th, in which E. L. Mieser, of New Britain, was badly injured.

Lever Brothers, Toronto, will send you a cake of their famous Plantiolet soap, if you mention this paper.

## SECRET COMMISSIONS LEAD TO THE PRISON

### Effect of New Law is Drawn to Attention of Board of Trade.

The secretary of the board of trade is in receipt of a communication from the Toronto board of trade, calling attention to the Secret Commissions act, which was passed by the Dominion parliament last session on the initiative of the minister of justice as an outcome of Judge Casse's inquiry into the affairs of the department of marine and fisheries.

The object of the act is to prevent the acceptance of commissions, or what is popularly termed "a rake-off." The act is entitled "an act to prevent the payment or acceptance of illicit or secret commissions and other like practices." It applies to all persons who act for principal, whether that principal is the crown, a municipality or a business firm, and the "consideration" is defined as including all valuable consideration of any kind. It is a criminal offence for an agent to accept or ask, or attempt to obtain, for himself or anyone, any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for any act affecting his principal's business. It is equally an offence on the part of anyone who offers or gives such consideration, or who gives any false document intended to mislead the principal. The penalty is two years' imprisonment, a fine not exceeding \$500, or both. In case of summary conviction the penalty is imprisonment for six months, or a fine not exceeding \$100, or both.

#### EARL GREY A PLEADER FOR THE RURAL LIFE

### Cost of Living Increasing Because Too Many Are Leaving Farm.

At the ninth Maritime Winter Fair, opened at Amherst by the Governor-General, his Excellency pleaded for more attention to the rural life.

His Excellency said that he regarded this great meeting as a hopeful sign of awakening interest in the great agricultural industry of the Maritime Provinces.

The Chinese had a proverb to the effect that agriculture was the root of the tree of prosperity, and that its two branches were trade and commerce. To raise the standard of agriculture was to increase the wealth of a nation. We had too much life in the modern towns and too little in the God-made country.

The cost of living was increasing because men were leaving the farms to seek life in the towns.

The greatest problem in which politicians and statements could grapple was how to make life on the farm pleasant, more profitable and more enjoyable. The attention of parliament should be focused on this point.

Manitoba, which is always spoken of as a farming province, had 50 per cent. of its inhabitants dwelling in towns. "Back to the land" was a cry that should be taken up by all. There were two ways in which agriculture could be advanced, first by education, second by association. The schools had a work to do. The better educated the farmer was the more enjoyment he would find in the cultivation of the soil.

#### SUPERINTENDENT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Gordon Halkett Who Has Nearly Recovered From Accident Going Home.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Gordon Halkett, superintendent of lighthouses for this coast, will leave for Ottawa to-morrow night for the purpose of laying before the government certain recommendations in regard to the improvements necessary on this coast, and to have a personal consultation with the officials at that point.

Incidentally Mr. Halkett will spend Christmas with his parents in Ottawa, this being the first time in several years that he has had an opportunity of doing so.

Although still wearing smoked glasses, Mr. Halkett's sight has improved very much of late. He still bears a few marks of the carbide explosion by which he nearly lost his life, but by the time he returns from the East he hopes to be once more his old self.

Mr. Halkett is very popular in Victoria, where he has a wide circle of acquaintances. All were grieved to hear of his accident some months ago, and they were glad to have him back to his old haunts after a long absence in the hospital. Their best Christmas wishes will go with him on his visit to his paternal home.

#### GRAIN AVERAGES.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The crop reporting board of the United States department of agriculture in a bulletin issued to-day estimated the average weight of measured bushel of various crops to be as follows: Spring wheat, 57.1 pounds; winter wheat, 58.3 pounds; and oats, 32.7 pounds; against 57.8, 58.8 and 33.8 pounds respectively last year. The quality of corn is 84.5 per cent. against 83.9 last year.

#### FIRE IN TORONTO.

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Fire, which broke out again after being left by the firemen, destroyed a block on the north-east corner of Church and Front streets. The loss amounts to \$150,000.

## TEN KILLED IN RAILWAY WRECK

### FOUR CARS GO DOWN EMBANKMENT

#### Thirty-five Passengers Also Sustain Injuries—Coaches Fall Into Creek.

Reidville, N. C., Dec. 15.—Before most of the passengers in two sleeping cars had been awakened and while the occupants of two passenger coaches were just beginning to stir after a night's ride, the four rear cars of train No. 11, of the Southern railway, were dashed down a fifty-foot embankment from Reidville trestle, ten miles from here and twelve miles north of Greensboro, killing ten men and injuring thirty-five other passengers.

The cars that left the track landed in the small creek that flowed beneath the trestle.

The wildest scene of panic prevailed as the sleeping passengers attempted to escape from the cars amid the scene of death.

The names of those reported killed were: John Broadnax, of Greensboro, N. C.; V. E. Hancock, a lawyer of Mount Aird, N. C.; Edward Sexton, of Denton, N. C.; Frank W. Kilby, formerly of Portsmouth, Va., whose present address is not known; A. P. Green, superintendent of the Richmond division of the Southern railway; D. C. Nolan, conductor of one of the Pullman cars; C. H. White, travelling auditor for the Southern railway; and a stage man whose name could not be ascertained.

The names of the other two reported killed are unknown.

George Gould, the New York millionaire, and his son were passengers in one of the sleeping cars bound from Norfolk to Thomasville, N. C. They were both slightly injured.

The wrecked train was operated locally between Richmond and Atlanta, Georgia, and carried sleepers from Richmond to Charlotte and from Norfolk to Charlotte.

At the Reidville trestle after the engine and the mail and two baggage cars had passed over the trestle in safety, the two coaches and two sleepers were derailed from some defect which has not been ascertained.

The injured passengers and trainmen were taken to St. Luke's hospital, Greensboro, N. C., where they were cared for.

Flagman Bagby, of Richmond, was probably fatally hurt, while Constable R. C. Coble, of Richmond, was slightly injured and had a narrow escape from drowning.

Sixteen Reported Killed.

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 15.—At 1 o'clock this afternoon a report reached here from Reidville that 16 people were killed in the wreck on the Southern railway near there. Ten bodies had been removed from the wreck at noon, but it is said there are other bodies now under the second sleeper which is totally demolished and under water.

A coroner's jury was empaneled and left at noon for the scene of the wreck.

#### CHEAP RATES FOR WINNIPEG TO COAST

### Excursionists Will Begin to Arrive Here About Christmas Day.

#### SPECIAL TRIP MADE TO STEWART CITY

#### Optimism in Spite of Cold—Whalers Seen at Work in Gulf.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Stewart Vado, who arrived from the north this morning, brought word of having made a special trip to Stewart for the purpose of bringing Mr. Hopkins and party, people who are promoting a railway in that district.

They found the weather extremely cold, there being about three feet of snow on the wharf and the thermometer down to zero. There was, however, an optimistic feeling among the residents. Not only will the short line of railway commence construction in the spring, but they expect that the mines will have the largest payroll of any camp in British Columbia. Three to four thousand people are expected to go in there in the early spring.

#### MORE HINDUS ARE RETURNING HOME

#### Eight Leaving To-morrow on Steamer Empress of China.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The Hindus are still drifting back to India. They do not like living here, especially in the winter. They have been working regularly since they arrived, and, while some have been spending like white men, others have been saving every dollar for the purpose of returning to their own country, where they can live on only a few cents a day and under more congenial conditions than those which obtain here. To-morrow eight of these will leave for the Orient on the steamer Empress of China, which pulls out from Vancouver on Monday as possible after the arrival of the noon train from the East.

Besides the Hindus the steamer will take 50 Chinese from this port, and she will have a number of saloon passengers from Vancouver. She will also take a quantity of freight.

#### BOMB THROWN AT BISHOP.

Liabon, Dec. 15.—To-day, the anniversary of the revolt of the separatists, was marked by the throwing of a bomb at the Bishop of Braganza. The latter was uninjured.

The police are looking for the authors of the attack; to which no particular significance is attached.

## PLEDGE SUPPORT TO THE LIBERALS

### Nationalist Convention Endorse Resolution Adopted by Executive.

Dublin, Dec. 15.—The Nationalist convention opened to-day with John Redmond presiding. A resolution adopted by the party committee yesterday pledging support to the Liberals in the coming general election was unanimously endorsed.

Timothy Healy and a handful of dissenters were not present.

Predicts Liberal Victory.

London, Dec. 15.—F. R. Brassey, speaking at a Conservative meeting at Boshall, predicted the return of the Liberal government. There would be a considerable turnover of votes in England. It was possible there might be a conservative majority, but the utmost they could hope to win in Scotland was eight or ten seats; in Wales one or two; while in Ireland there would be no change at all. The result would be that the present government would be returned to power with a majority dependent on the Irish, Scotch and Welsh votes.

## MISS ASQUITH SCORES WATSON

#### DECLARES HE WROTE POEM FOR REVENGE

#### Says Poet Was Disappointed Because He Failed to Secure Knighthood.

London, Dec. 15.—Poet William Watson was disappointed because he could get neither title nor pension, according to Miss Violet Asquith, daughter of the British premier. To this she attributes his astounding statements in America that she and her stepmother figured in his poem as "The Woman With the Serpent's Tongue."

She declared he had made her father's life miserable with his constant demands and had failed. The poet, according to Miss Asquith, asked for a large literary pension and expected that the announcement of his knighthood would be made on the King's birthday a year ago.

When it did not come out he became peevish and blamed her mother and herself for not appreciating his greatness, she said. Miss Asquith refused to make a full statement of her side of the controversy.

John Lane, who published the volume of William Watson's poems which has had a big sale recently, announces that in all subsequent editions "The Woman With the Serpent's Tongue" will be omitted.

On account of the notoriety of the poem, Watson's latest book was in strong demand. So long as the identity of the "woman" remained a matter of guesswork, the publisher used the mystery for all it was worth in advertising the book, but now that Watson has indicated who was meant, Lane says he does not care to assume the responsibility.

#### NEW CHIEF OF STAFF.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Major General Leonard Wood, now in command of the department of the East, will be the next chief of staff of the United States army. Secretary of War Dickinson made this announcement to-day. General Wood will succeed General J. Franklin Bell, whose term at the head of the general staff will expire next spring.

#### CARPET WEAVERS STRIKE.

Guelph, Ont., Dec. 15.—Employees of the Brussels weaving department of the carpet factory, numbering 48 men, are on strike and that department is closed up as a result of a dispute regarding the payment of overtime.

#### PENDER ISLAND JOINS IN VICTORIA'S FIGHT

#### Members Will Probably Be Indicted by the Grand Jury.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 10.—Members of the grocery combine which is alleged to have been forcing the Seattle grocers to keep the prices of foodstuffs at an artificial figure, will be indicted by the grand jury, it is said. Evidence so far given before the jury has satisfied it that indictments can be successfully prosecuted.

Short weights and high prices of food products were investigated by the grand jury yesterday. The jury is satisfied that a combine to keep up the prices is in operation in Seattle. Scores of grocers have been called to testify as to their futile attempts to cut grocery prices so as to invite trade to their stores.

#### PROBING GROCERY COMBINE AT SEATTLE

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 10.—Members of the grocery combine which is alleged to have been forcing the Seattle grocers to keep the prices of foodstuffs at an artificial figure, will be indicted by the grand jury, it is said. Evidence so far given before the jury has satisfied it that indictments can be successfully prosecuted.

#### ROCKEFELLER DRUG STORES.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—It is reported that J. D. Rockefeller intends establishing a chain of drug stores across the continent to use oil by-products.

#### "LAND REGISTRY ACT."

In the Matter of an Application for Duplicate Certificate of Title to Section 8, Renfrew District.

Notice is hereby given that it is my intention, at the expiration of one month from the date of the first publication hereof, to issue a Duplicate Certificate of Title to above lands, issued to Henry John Kirby on the 26th day of September, 1897, and numbered 479.

#### S. X. WOOTTON, Registrar-General.

Land Registry Office, Victoria, B. C., this 15th day of November, 1909.

#### ELITE STUDIO

60 FORT STREET, Opposite Royal Hotel.

DEVELOPING AND ENLARGING FOR AMATEURS.

Portraits, Post Cards, Lantern Slides, Photos copied and colored.

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## REPORTED BATTLE IN NICARAGUA

### ZELAYA PROMISES TO RESIGN PRESIDENCY

Proposes Madruz as Successor—Latter Not Popular in Republic.

New York, Dec. 15.—Report here is that a great battle between Zelaya and Estrada is taking place to-day. The rebels are said to have taken the initiative.

Proposed Protectorate.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The state department is seriously considering establishing a protectorate over Nicaragua, either alone or with Mexico.

The battleship Missouri is held ready to be sent from Newport News at a moment's notice.

Zelaya's Proposals.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Yesterday's dispatches containing an account of the anti-Zelayan demonstration in Managua were confirmed by a telegram received at the state department from Vice-Consul Calder. From this dispatch, which was dated yesterday morning, it appears that some of the demonstrators were arrested by government authorities, but who the people placed under arrest were is not indicated.

The dispatch also says that Zelaya has published a statement promising to resign the presidency of Nicaragua in favor of Madruz, who as Zelaya's candidate is not the choice of the people there.

In the absence of any specific information on the subject the state department officials discredit the news published some days ago of any important engagements between the government and revolutionary forces at Rama, in which the revolutionary army is said to have been defeated.

The fact that the government has received no information on the subject is regarded as almost proof positive that no engagements have taken place at Rama.

Should Zelaya carry out his purpose of resigning and installing Madruz in his place as president there is reason to believe that the Estrada faction would continue their activities with even greater vigor than they have against Zelaya.

The people of Nicaragua, it is said, cannot look for better conditions under Madruz's administration than under Zelaya's, as he is known to be a strong partisan of the former, although he has himself been a number of times in prison by Zelaya's direction.

It is also known that Madruz's selection would not be satisfactory to the government of the United States and therefore his installation into the office of president of Nicaragua would rather tend to complicate than to simplify the situation in that country.

Postpone Investigation.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Secretary of State Knox has requested the senate committee on foreign relations to postpone the suggested investigation of Nicaraguan situation until such time as the publisher used the mystery for all it was worth in advertising the book, but now that Watson has indicated who was meant, Lane says he does not care to assume the responsibility.

Disorders in Capital.

Corinto, Nicaragua, Dec. 15.—There were scenes of wild disorder in Managua, the capital, to-day. During a meeting of the aldermen one of them made a speech denouncing Madruz and favoring the revolution. The speech was greeted with cheers and hootings, and anti-government elements followed. Two pistol shots were fired. Twenty arrests were made.

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## CHRISTMAS

Will soon be with us. Make your choice while our stock is complete.

BONBONS, per box, \$1.50 to .....25¢  
STOCKINGS, each, 75c, 40c, 25c and .....10¢

SPECIAL  
JAPANESE ORANGES, per box .....75¢

## The Family Cash Grocery

CORNER YATES AND DOUGLAS STREETS  
PHONE 312.

## CONSIDERING G. T. P. WHARVES

#### Official of G. T. P. Met With Harbor Committee This Morning.

#### BOARD OF TRADE DEALS WITH QUESTION

Official of G. T. P. Met With Harbor Committee This Morning.

G. A. McNicholl's purchasing agent of the G. T. P. is in the city to-day conferring with the harbor committee of the board of trade relative to the company's projected wharves in the inner harbor. Mr. McNicholl has come to the city at the request of the board of trade for this very purpose, bringing with him plans of the proposed work.

Mr. McNicholl explained the situation, showing that the length of the steamer to be operated by his company required the wharves being built as projected.

Difficulties in connection with the proposed wharves from the standpoint of interference in the passing out of vessels were pointed out. It was suggested that when the harbor improvements contemplated by the removal of the rock from the harbor were carried out the difficulty would be overcome.

The harbor committee of the board of trade will meet again to-morrow morning, when expert information will be available on the subject.

In the meantime the G. T. P. will continue with its call for tenders for the work. The time has been extended for receiving tenders until December 27th.

## MATSQUI PEOPLE FOR DYKING SCHEME

#### Province Will Be Asked For Aid For the Sumas Dyke.

New Westminster, Dec. 13.—The newly organized Matsqui-Sumas board of trade at their meeting passed a resolution endorsing the Sumas Dyking scheme and will ask the provincial government to aid the dyking commissioners in financing this scheme. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to the Provincial Secretary along with an explanation and the government will be asked to give an early hearing to the commissioners. This is one of